



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
BUCHAREST • ROMANIA

January 2011



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American Citizen Services eNewsletter

PEACE CORPS ROMANIA

From Embassy's Dacian Dispatch

This year the Peace Corps celebrates 50 years of international service and **20 years** in Romania. Inspired by Senator John F. Kennedy's call to service, the agency provides trained men and women to areas of need around the world and promotes a mutually better understanding of people across cultures.



As reported in their Newsletter, Peace Corps Romania works to maintain a sustainable contribution to the country's underserved populations and development challenges. Volunteers are placed with Romanian schools, organizations and local government agencies for a period of two years and provide technical assistance by working side by side with their Romanian colleagues, while at the same time sharing in the daily life of their communities.

Fast Facts

1000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in Romania.

87 currently serve in 31 counties, in the following positions:

Community Economic Development: 1

Peace Corps Response: 1

Youth Development: 8

English Education: 68

Environment: 9

All **non-emergency** ACS services (renewal of U.S. passports, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, notarial, etc.) are provided by appointment **ONLY**.

Please follow [this link](#) to make an appointment with the consular section staff.

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

Address: St. Filipescu 26, Bucharest

E-mail: acsbucharest@state.gov

Tel: +40- 21- 200 3300

Fax: +40- 21- 200 3578

In the event of an emergency involving an American citizen, please, call +40-21-200-3433

For information about public hours, please visit <http://romania.usembassy.gov/acs/index.html>.

So what are volunteers up to?

An Environment Volunteer completed a compost project which trained locals, built compost demonstration sites and developed compost informational materials.

A Foreign Language Volunteer organized an anti-violence campaign, including a series of workshops on communication and conflict resolution.

One Peace Corps volunteer teamed up with an English teacher and the local children's club to direct Dickens' A Christmas Story this holiday season--the first time for an English language play to be performed!

WWOOF (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) offers people the chance to volunteer on organic farms. Labor is exchanged for food, accommodation and a unique learning experience. In 2007 two Peace Corps Volunteers initiated a conversation with Romanian counterparts that led to the establishment of WWOOF Romania in 2008, which has been a great success and continues to grow.

Coordinating with the "Let's Do It Romania" countrywide trash pick-up campaign, a volunteer collaborated with the community for a day of clean-up, sharing a spirit of cooperation and instilling respect for the environment.



INTERNET SAFETY FOR KIDS

Tips from the Embassy Information Management Officer

Remain positively engaged. Pay attention to and know the online environments your children use. Surf the Internet with them. Appreciate your children's participation in their online communities and show interest in their friends. Try to react constructively when they encounter inappropriate material. Make it a teaching moment. For more information, please, visit

[Http://www.staysafeonline.org/in-the-home/basic-internet-safety-kids.](http://www.staysafeonline.org/in-the-home/basic-internet-safety-kids.)

In 2011, the Embassy will be closed on Jan 17, Feb 21, Apr 25, May 30, Jun 13, Jul 4, Aug 15, Sep 5, Oct 10, Nov 11, Nov 24 and Dec 1 in observance of U.S. and Romanian official holidays.





TRAVEL.STATE.GOV

A SERVICE OF THE BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS
U.S. Department of State

We continue offering you information that is available on the Website of the Bureau of Consular Affairs.

In this issue of our eNewsletter, we would like to tell you about a Consular Information Program that is administered by the State Department's Office of American Citizens Services and Crisis Management (ACS). The Program informs American citizens of conditions abroad that may affect their safety and security.

Country Specific Information, Travel Alerts, and Travel Warnings are vital parts of this Program.

So, whether you have just arrived to Romania and would like to find out more about Romania's safety and security issues, medical care and health facilities, traffic and road conditions, or you are planning a trip to somewhere near (Hungary? Turkey?) or far (Nauru? *sure! why not?*), information on public conditions that may affect your safety and security while residing or traveling overseas is available under [International Travel](#) on the <http://travel.state.gov>.



Help us help you! Remember to register your residence or international trip with the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#).

Stay informed. Stay connected. Stay safe.



GOOD LUCK. GOOD HEALTH. GOOD CHEER.

HAPPY HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

CDC *Travelers' Health* offers information to assist travelers and their health-care providers in deciding the vaccines, medications, and other measures necessary to prevent illness and injury during international travel.

Visit <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/content/news-announcements/lunar-new-year-2011.aspx> and learn

- *What to do before your trip*
- *How to stay healthy during your trip*
- *What to do after your trip*

[Tips for Traveling Safely With Infants And Children](#)



APPOINTMENTS TO FILE AN APPLICATION FOR A CONSULAR REPORT OF BIRTH ABROAD TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

Due to the Department's current work on upgrading computer systems, we temporarily do not accept requests for appointments to file an application for a **Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA)**.

Please check [our website](#) for updates and plan accordingly. We will announce the date we are ready to take new CRBA appointments. *If you have urgent travel needs, please contact us by phone (200-3300) or email (ACSBucharest@state.gov) to discuss your situation.*

Appointments can be scheduled for all **other consular services**.

WE REMIND YOU...

... that the first step to plan your international trip is to make sure that your passport is **valid**.

Before you book your tickets, check the expiration dates on yours and your family's passports. Renewing passports early can save you both time and money. Remember that ALL American citizens must enter and exit the U.S. on a **valid** U.S. passport, irrespective of any other passports you might hold. For more information on passport renewal procedures for adults and minors, please, visit our website:

http://romania.usembassy.gov/acs/passport_issuance.html.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Can the U.S. Embassy help me with my U.S. taxes?

No. **There is no IRS office or IRS representative at the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest.** Our consular staff cannot provide answers to specific questions about your income taxes.

For immediate assistance from a taxpayer specialist, you can call, fax or email the **International Customer Service Site** located in Philadelphia. The Service Site is open Monday through Friday, for 17 hours each day, from 6:00 AM to 11 PM, Eastern Time. Also, there is an Internal Revenue Service office serving U.S. taxpayers living or working in Romania located in [Frankfurt, Germany](#).

In addition, the IRS has created a recently updated comprehensive tax page designed to help **U.S. Citizens Overseas**. It has basic tax information that you need to know, and also links to inform on more specific topics such as the foreign earned income exclusion, foreign tax credit, reporting foreign bank accounts, Fulbright grants, state taxes, and a myriad of others. It also has information on contacting the IRS for more assistance, and forms and publications to download. If you need more details on how to contact the IRS, please, email to acsbucharest@state.gov.

